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"PERISHABLE INFORMATION -- DO NOT SERVICE"

E.O. 12958: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, GM

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: RICE WTO PAKISTAN ENVIRONMENT U.S.

EGYPT;BERLIN

- A. LEAD STORIES SUMMARY
- B. (U.S.-GERMANY) RICE VISIT, RENDITIONS
- C. (WTO) UPCOMING MEETING IN HONG KONG
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F. (U.S.) IMMIGRATION POLICY

G. (EGYPT) ELECTIONS

A. LEAD STORIES SUMMARY

HEADLINES

CDU DISCUSSES ELECTION OUTCOME (FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE)

SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES IN GERMANY'S ELECTRICITY GRID

(SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG)

GERMAN TOP MANAGER DEFEND BONUS PAYMENTS (DIE WELT)

CIA ALLEGEDLY INFORMED SCHILY (FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU)

DID THE GOVERNMENT KNOW ABOUT CIA TORTURE? (TAGESSPIEGEL)

COALITION PARTIES INCREASE PACE [OF REFORMS] (BERLINER
ZEITUNG)

EDITORIALS FOCUSED ON THE DISCUSSION IN THE CDU/CSU ABOUT

ITS WEAK SHOWING IN THE BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. ZDF-TV'S

EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST HEUTE OPENED WITH A STORY THAT THE

GERMAN GOVERNMENT KNEW ABOUT THE CIA FLIGHTS AND ARD-TV'S

EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST TAGESSCHAU OPENED WITH STORY ON

THE KIDNAPPING OF SUSANNE OSTHOFF IN IRAQ.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2005

HEADLINES

MNTEFERING: NO CUTS IN PENSIONS (FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE)

GOVERNMENT IS FIGHTING FOR THE HOSTAGES' LIVES (SUEDEDEUTSCHE
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CDU CRITICIZES ITSELF FOR ELECTION RESULTS (DIE WELT)

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LAWYERS: PARENTAL MONEY VIOLATES THE CONSTITUTION

(TAGESSPIEGEL)

GERMAN ENERGY NET AILING (BERLINER ZEITUNG)

EDITORIALS FOCUSED ON CHANCELLOR MERKEL'S VISIT TO WARSAW

AND THE KIDNAPPING OF A GERMAN IN IRAQ. ZDF-TV'S EARLY

EVENING NEWSCAST HEUTE AND ARD-TV'S EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST

TAGESSCHAU OPENED WITH STORIES ON MERKEL'S VISIT TO WARSAW.

B. (U.S.-GERMANY) RICE VISIT, RENDITIONS

1. "BEING SILENTLY IN THE KNOW"

CHRISTOPH VON MARSCHALL COMMENTED IN CENTRIST DER

TAGESSPIEGEL OF BERLIN (12/5):

"HOW FORTUNATE FOR OTTO SCHILY THAT THERE HAS BEEN A
CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. IF THE WASHINGTON POST REPORT WAS
CORRECT, SAYING THAT SCHILY KNEW ABOUT THE RENDITION OF
GERMAN CITIZEN KHALED EL MASRI AND REMAINED SILENT ABOUT IT,

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HE WOULD HAVE HAD TO RESIGN. THIS PART OF THE CIA SCANDAL -
REVEALED JUST IN TIME FOR SECRETARY RICE'S VISIT TO GERMANY
- MEANS MORE TROUBLE FOR THE GRAND COALITION THAN FOR RICE.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 *****/

IT WAS KNOWN THAT THE CIA ERRONEOUSLY CAPTURED EL MASRI IN
2004 AND INTERROGATED HIM FOR FIVE MONTHS. THE GERMAN
AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY LAUNCHED INVESTIGATIONS. HOWEVER,
THE CASE IS NOT PROOF OF THE OTHER ALLEGATIONS OF ILLEGAL
CIA FLIGHTS OVER GERMANY AND COVERT PRISONS IN EASTERN
EUROPE. THE INVOLVEMENT OF SCHRDER'S GOVERNMENT IS NEW.
IT SHOWS THAT SCHRDER CLOSELY COOPERATED WITH THE U.S. IN
THE WAR ON TERROR, AND IN SOME FIELDS HE REACHED OUT TO
GEORGE W. BUSH FURTHER THAN MANY COUNTRIES OF THE IRAQ
COALITION. AT THE SAME TIME, HIS ANTI-BUSH AND ANTI-IRAQ
WAR RHETORIC IMPLIED THE OPPOSITE. THIS MISLEADING OF THE
PUBLIC IS A DIFFICULT LEGACY.. OF COURSE, ALSO SECRETARY
RICE WILL RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES IN BERLIN. SHE, ABOVE ALL,
HAS ALWAYS SPOKEN OUT AGAINST DUBIOUS METHODS AND BELIEVED
IT WOULD BE WRONG TO LIE TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IN THE EL
MASRI CASE. SHE COULD NOW EMBARK ON A DOUBLE STRATEGY: SHE
COULD APOLOGIZE FOR THE WRONGFUL RENDITION AND CONDEMN
N

ILLEGAL METHODS, AND SHE COULD MAKE CLEAR THAT SCHRDER'S
GOVERNMENT KNEW ABOUT IT. MAYBE RICE IS TOO MUCH OF A
DIPLOMAT TO CAUSE HER PARTNER MORE PROBLEMS. WE CAN ALREADY
READ THE FACTS IN THE PAPERS."

2. "EUROPE'S CIA SCANDAL"

CENTER-LEFT SUEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH (12/3)
EDITORIALIZED:

"AN ALLEGEDLY KIDNAPPED GERMAN HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY
ASSISTANCE FROM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT OR THE GERMAN
PARLIAMENT, NOT AT ALL FROM THE UNITED STATES. ONLY NOW WE
CAN HEAR PUBLIC ANGER, BECAUSE THE MEDIA UNREVEALED
DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS OF U.S. AIRCRAFT. THE EU LOWERED
ITS HEAD, CAUTIOUSLY ASKING WASHINGTON TO CLARIFY THE ISSUE,
REFERRING TO SURPRISING MEDIA REPORTS. ITALY'S GOVERNMENT
EVEN CLAIMED THAT NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. THIS IS AN AFFRONT
TO ITS OWN COURTS, WHICH DOCUMENTED THE KIDNAPPING OF A
TERROR SUSPECT. EUROPE'S GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN
A DETAILED CLARIFICATION, BECAUSE THEY ALREADY KNEW THE
DETAILS. THEY CAN HARDLY CRITICIZE WHAT THEY HAVE ACCEPTED

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SO FAR. THAT SUITS THE UNITED STATES: THE SCANDAL IS A EUROPEAN ONE. THEY ALL HOPE THAT THE ANGER WILL SOON FADE."

3. "GUILTY OF REMAINING QUIET"

ASTRID HLSCHER NOTED IN LEFT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (12/5):

"SECRETARY RICE'S DIVERSIONARY TACTIC COULD BE SUCCESSFUL IF SHE MANAGES TO PULL EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS INTO HER CARTEL OF SILENCE, THAT THOSE WHO KNEW ABOUT CIA FLIGHTS WOULD ASSUME SECRET TRANSPORTATION OF DETAINEES WOULD QUIETLY RETREAT, AND IF PEOPLE IN THE KNOW TURNED TO PEOPLE WITH A GUILTY CONSCIOUSNESS. 'DON'T MENTION IT.' THAT IS THE WAY DICTATORSHIPS, IN WHICH SMALLER SINNERS CONCEAL CRIMES, WORK. THIS IS NOT ABOUT FLIGHT SCHEDULES BUT CRIMES LIKE UNLAWFUL DETENTION, KIDNAPPING, AND TORTURE. CLARIFICATION IS THE ONLY TOOL AGAINST THIS SYSTEM. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE DUTY TO PROTECT THE FREEDOM OF PEOPLE ON THEIR TERRITORIES. THE RULE OF LAW IS UNDER THREAT IF THIS TASK IS NEGLECTED."

4. CENTRIST BADISCHE ZEITUNG OF FREIBURG (12/5) EDITORIALIZED:

"KIDNAPPING, UNLAWFUL DETENTION, VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAWS, DECEPTION OF TRANSIT COUNTRY - THERE IS AN INCREASING NUMBER OF REPORTS THAT THE U.S. FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMATICALLY EXERCISED ALL THESE THINGS, ALSO /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 3 *****/

IN GERMANY. DECEPTION IMPLIES THAT THE ALLIES DID NOT INFORM GERMANY AND ITS INTELLIGENCE. THAT IS UNCLEAR AND IT COULD BECOME EMBARRASSING, PARTICULARLY FOR FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER SCHILY AND FOREIGN MINISTER STEINMEIER. EITHER THEY ALLOWED OTHERS TO DECEIVE THEM OR THEY COVERED THEM. GOVERNMENTS THAT BELIEVE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS MUST NOT ALLOW THIS."

5. RIGHT-OF-CENTER SAARBRUCKER ZEITUNG (12/5) OBSERVED:

"SHOULD U.S. SECRETARY RICE COMMENTS ON THE CONTROVERSIAL CIA DETENTION FLIGHTS PRIOR TO HER VISIT TO EUROPE, EUROPEANS SHOULD NOT HOPE FOR COMPLETE TRANSPARENCY. RICE IMPLIED TO IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER AHERN WHAT WASHINGTON'S ARGUMENTS COULD LOOK LIKE: WE DID NOT VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL LAW IN IRELAND, RICE STATED. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WILL NOW PUT ALL CARDS ON

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THE TABLE. WE CAN ASSUME THAT THE EUROPEANS WILL REMAIN CONFUSED - AND THIS ISSUE WILL CONTINUE TO WEIGH HEAVILY ON THE TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP FOR WEEKS AND MONTHS."

6. CENTER-RIGHT WILHELMSHAVENER-ZEITUNG (12/5) COMMENTED:

"CLARIFICATION OVER THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS URGENTLY REQUIRED. THE SUSPICION OF CONCEALING AND COVERING UP WEIGHS HEAVY. HOPEFULLY, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WILL GET A SATISFACTORY ANSWER FROM BERLIN."

C. (WTO) UPCOMING MEETING IN HONG KONG

1. "BEACON OF HOPE HONG KONG"

KONRAD MRUSEK OPINED IN CENTER-RIGHT FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE (12/5):

"THE FEAR OF EMBARRASSMENT IS NOT ONLY BASED ON THE VANITY OF DIPLOMATS. A THIRD DEBACLE FOLLOWING SEATTLE IN 1999 AND CANCN IN 2003 WOULD REALLY BE A DISASTER, WHICH COULD DAMAGE THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION AND IS LIKELY TO DESTROY THE DOHA ROUND. FURTHER ATTEMPTS FOR A MULTILATERAL OPENING OF MARKETS WOULD BE QUESTIONABLE, AND TRADE POLICY REGIONALISM WOULD THEN GAIN GROUND.. SO IT IS NOT THE COWARDICE OF FREE TRADERS IF THE TRAVEL TO HONG KONG SLOWED DOWN AMBITIONS; BUT IT WOULD BE THE INSIGHT THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO REMOVE A BIG OBSTACLE AND PREFER TO AVOID A HEAVY FALL.

"IS THE MEETING AT LEAST WORTH THE EXPENSES? IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, A LEAST A FEW HURDLES SHOULD BE REMOVED. IN THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE REDUCTION OF TARIFFS ON AGRICULTURAL GOODS, MORE MEAT NEEDS TO BE ADDED TO THE BONES OF THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT. WHAT COMES NEXT IS A BINDING TIMETABLE, INCLUDING A MINISTERIAL EARLY NEXT YEAR, TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL BY THE END OF 2006. AND BECAUSE THERE WILL BE NO AGRICULTURAL COMPROMISE, THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES SHOULD AT LEAST ALLOW THE 32 LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AN EARLY HARVEST, I. E. THE WEALTHY NATIONS COULD GRANT THE POOREST NATIONS ACCESS TO THEIR MARKETS WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY TARIFFS AND QUOTAS. THE AGRICULTURAL CONFLICT IS OVERSHADOWING AND PARALYZING THE DOHA ROUND, EVEN THOUGH ONLY NINE PERCENT OF TRADE REFERS TO AGRICULTURAL GOODS..

"THE GREATEST DANGER FOR THE DOHA ROUND IS THE ZEITGEIST. IT HAS BECOME MORE PROTECTIONIST. IT IS TRUE THERE ARE FEWER RIOTS OF GLOBALIZATION OPPONENTS, BUT EVEN

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CONSERVATIVES HAVE BECOME MORE SKEPTICAL ABOUT GLOBALIZATION. IN THEORY, CLOSER INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR HAS RESULTED IN HIGHER PROSPERITY. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 4 *****/

VISIBLE IN PRACTICE. MANY THINK THAT GLOBALIZATION IS A ZERO-SUM-GAME, WHERE THE WINNER SITS IN ASIA AND THE LOSER IN EUROPE, BUT THIS IS TOO SIMPLE. AS CONSUMERS, THE EUROPEANS WILL PROFIT, WHEN THEY BUY, FOR INSTANCE, CHINESE TEXTILES, BUT THEY WILL BE LOSERS IN THE MEDIUM TERM IF THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY IS UNABLE TO ADAPT TO THE NEW DIVISION OF LABOR BECAUSE WORKERS ARE NOT SATISFACTORILY QUALIFIED AND TAX AND LABOR LAWS ARE TOO INFLEXIBLE. THAT IS WHY THE LABORIOUS DOHA ROUND IS ALSO A REFLECTION OF THE TOUGH REFORM PROCESS AND THE BAD MOOD IN EUROPE."

2. "CONTRADICTION"

HANS-HELMUT KOHL NOTED IN AN EDITORIAL IN LEFT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (12/5):

"ACCORDING TO THE OECD, THE EU AND FRANCE IN PARTICULAR WILL BE BLAMED IF THE WTO TALKS, AS IT IS FORESEEABLE NOW, ARE TO FAIL. UNDER FRENCH PRESSURE, THE EUROPEANS HAVE INSISTED ON A GRADUAL REDUCTION OF TARIFFS FOR YEARS, WHILE THEY, AT THE SAME TIME, HAVE CALLED UPON THE DEVELOPING NATIONS TO OPEN THEIR MARKETS FOR SERVICES AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.. IT IS CYNICAL THAT FRENCH PRESIDENT CHIRAC PRESENTED HIMSELF AS AN 'INDEFATIGABLE ADVOCATE' OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AND THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD AT THE AFRICA-FRANCE SUMMIT IN MALI. AT THE SAME TIME, HE PREVENTS THE EU FROM ADDRESSING THE COMPLAINTS OF EXACTLY THOSE COUNTRIES. THE OBVIOUS CONTRADICTION OF THIS POLICY IS BASED ON THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE FRENCH AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND ITS NEED TO BE PROTECTED, A POLICY THAT IS NO LONGER JUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF THE FRENCH FARMERS. IN THIS FIELD, CHIRAC LOOKS ANACHRONISTIC, AND THE BAD THING IS THAT HIS INFLUENCE IS LARGE ENOUGH TO BRING THE EU ON BOARD, TOO."

D. (PAKISTAN) AL QAIDA TERRORIST KILLED

1. "PAKISTANI DOUBLE GAME"

CENTER-LEFT SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH (12/5)
EDITORIALIZED:

"MUCH FOG IS STILL SURROUNDING HAMSA RABIA'S DEATH.

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OFFICIALLY, NO ONE HAS CONFIRMED THAT A U.S. MISSILE KILLED THE TERRORIST IN PAKISTAN'S ROUGH MOUNTAINS, BUT THERE ARE HARDLY ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THAT. AND THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR THE UNITED STATES TO SHOW RESTRAINT WITH RESPECT TO SUCH SUCCESS STORIES.. THE AMERICANS KNOW THAT THE PRESENCE OF THEIR AGENTS IN PAKISTAN AND EACH SECRET COOPERATION IN THE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS BORDER REGIONS TO AFGHANISTAN IS A DOMESTICALLY PRECARIOUS ISSUE FOR PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF. BUT THE UNITED STATES WAS ALSO INCREASINGLY ANNOYED BY ITS PAKISTANI PARTNER BECAUSE AL QAIDA CAN CONTINUE TO UNIMPEDEDLY TRAIN SUICIDE ATTACKERS IN THE COUNTRY.. MAYBE THE MISSILE IS AN INDICATION THAT SOMETHING IS CHANGING. HALF A YEAR AGO, CIA BOSS PORTER GOSS LAMENTED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS AN 'EXCELLENT NOTION' OF BIN LADEN'S WHEREABOUTS, BUT THESE WERE PLACES THAT CANNOT BE REACHED BY AMERICANS. THE TIME IS OBVIOUSLY NOT YET RIPE FOR BIN LADEN. BUT THE TIME WAS ALREADY GOOD ENOUGH FOR AL QAIDA'S NUMBER THREE."

E. (ENVIRONMENT) MONTREAL CONFERENCE

1. "SOMETHING IS IN THE AIR"

MICHAEL BAUMLER OPINED IN AN EDITORIAL IN CENTER-LEFT SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH (12/5):

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 5 *****/

"WHEN THE ISSUE IS THE CLIMATE, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTS LIKE A DEBTOR WHO DOES NOT WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS DEBT WHEN THE TIME COMES TO REPAY IT.. FOR YEARS, MANKIND ACCUMULATED LOANS IN THE FORM OF CARBON DIOXIDE. BUT WHEN THE ISSUE IS TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY, PETTY-MINDEDNESS PREVAILS.. AT THE CLIMATE CONFERENCE IN MONTREAL, TWO INSIGHTS CAN BE PRESUMED: FIRST, THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THE WARMING OF THE CLIMATE, AND SECOND, SOMETHING MUST HAPPEN QUICKLY TO PREVENT A FURTHER WARMING. UNFORTUNATELY, THESE INSIGHTS DO NOT RESULT IN MUCH, SINCE THEY DO NOT SAY WHO HAS TO REPAY HOW MUCH OF THESE LOANS..

"EUROPE HAS EMBARKED UPON THE RIGHT TRACK AND SOME DAY IN THE FUTURE, EVEN THE U.S. PRESIDENT WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO IGNORE CITIZENS AND PARTY FRIENDS WHO ARE AFRAID OF HURRICANES FLOODS AND DROUGHTS.. BUT BECAUSE A SITUATION HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED IN MONTREAL WHERE THE UNITED STATES

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WILL TAKE ON A COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE, THE DECISIVE DAYS IN MONTREAL WILL RESEMBLE A DIPLOMATIC TIGHTROPE ACT.. THERE IS GREAT DANGER OF A STANDSTILL, BUT THE ALTERNATIVE TO CLIMATE PROTECTION IS AS CLEAR AS IT IS FATAL: IF A BANK IS UNABLE TO COLLECT ITS LOAN, IT WILL GO BANKRUPT."

2. GNTHER LACHMANN OPINED IN AN EDITORIAL IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER WEEKLY WELT AM SONNTAG (11/04):

"THOSE WHO LIKE THE UNITED STATES WANT TO REDUCE THE DISCUSSION ABOUT CLIMATE PROTECTION TO MANAGEMENT COSTS ONLY OFFER EVIDENCE OF ONE'S OWN SHORTSIGHTEDNESS, BECAUSE THE REPAIR COSTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS WILL ONLY INCREASE.. AND THE ARGUMENT THAT THE FUNDS THAT ARE INVESTED IN CLIMATE PROTECTION SHOULD BETTER BE INVESTED IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SINCE PROSPERING SOCIETIES HAVE A SELF INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS REFUTED BY THE UNITED STATES ITSELF.. THAT IS WHY THE DEBATE MUST BE CONTINUED. IT IS AN IMPORTANT SIGNAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT COUNTRIES AND A PERMANENT WARNING TO THE UNITED STATES. ONLY IF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A FURTHER REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GASES CONTINUE CAN WE SUCCEED IN ALLEVIATING THE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE..."

F. (U.S.) IMMIGRATION POLICY

1. "RECORD LEVEL"

DANIEL DECKERS ARGUED IN AN EDITORIAL IN CENTER-RIGHT FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE (12/5):

"PRESIDENT BUSH'S LATEST ANNOUNCEMENTS ON A NEW ORIENTATION OF U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY SOUND PROMISING IF WE CAN TAKE THEM AT FACE VALUE, FOR THERE IS NOT MUCH TO BE SAID FOR THE PLANNED HARMONY BETWEEN AN IMPROVEMENT OF BORDER DEFENSE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A 'GUEST WORKER' STATUS. THE APPROVAL OF REPUBLICANS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE DECISIVE PROJECT OF CREATING A LIMITED 'GUEST WORKER STATUS' IS AS UNCERTAIN AS THE BUSH REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN CONGRESS. WITHOUT A LIMITED LEGALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, EVERY ATTEMPT TO GET THE INCREASING PRESSURE ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER UNDER CONTROL WILL BE DOOMED TO FAILURE. MEXICO'S PRESIDENT FOX HAS ALSO REMINDED US OF THIS CONTEXT. MEANWHILE, THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS WHO PAID WITH THEIR LIVES WHEN TRYING TO CROSS THE BORDER REACHED A RECORD LEVEL WITH 464 IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR."

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G. (EGYPT) ELECTIONS

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 6 *****/

HEIKO FLOTTAU OPINED IN AN EDITORIAL IN CENTER-LEFT
SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH (12/5):

"GEORGE W. BUSH PLANS TO DEMOCRATIZE THE WORLD OF
AUTOCRATS AND DESPOTS [IN THE MIDDLE EAST]. IT IS TRUE THAT
THE UNITED STATES CULTIVATED THE ARAB DICTATORSHIPS, FOR THE
RESULT WAS POLITICAL STABILITY. BUT AFTER THE ARAB REGIMES
PRODUCED PROTESTS AND TERROR, BUSH MADE A TURNABOUT.
REFORMS AND DEMOCRACY ARE NOW TO CONTAIN THE DEVELOPMENT AND
SPREAD OF DEMOCRACY, BUT BUSH'S PLAN DOES NOT MEET WITH
GREAT SUPPORT IN THE REGION. THE SUPPORTERS OF THE MUSLIM
BROTHERHOOD IN EGYPT ARE SUCCEEDING INSTEAD WITH THEIR
SLOGAN 'ISLAM IS THE SOLUTION.' THEY FIND SUPPORT BECAUSE
THE VOTERS ARE HIGHLY DISSATISFIED WITH HOSNI MUBARAK'S PRO-
WESTERN REGIME. IN ADDITION, THEY REJECT THE U.S. POLICY
TOWARDS THE PALESTINIANS LIKE THE U.S. INVASION OF IRAQ.
BUT THERE ARE ALSO DEEPER-SITTING REASONS FOR THE ISLAMIC
SUCCESS. THEY ARE BASED ON THE FAILURE OF THE WESTERN
PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE, ON THE FAILURE OF SOCIALISM,
NATIONALISM, AND PAN-ARABISM..

"NOW SOMETHING IS HAPPENING THAT MANY PEOPLE PREDICTED.
THOSE WHO LIKE THE AMERICANS PIN THEIR HOPES ON DEMOCRACY IN
EGYPT DO NOT GET THE RESULT THEY WANT. IF THE PEOPLE HAVE
THE RIGHT TO VOTE, THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD WILL WIN. IN
ALGERIA A SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT RESULTED IN A MURDEROUS CIVIL
WAR. THAT IS WHY MANY IN EGYPT ARE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT
DEMOCRACY WILL BRING, ESPECIALLY THE TEN PERCENT OF KOPTIAN
CHRISTIANS AND A SMALL CLASS OF INDEPENDENT INTELLECTUALS.
THEY DO NOT TRUST THE DEMOCRATIC PROMISES OF THE MUSLIM
BROTHERS. THOSE WHO LIKE THE AMERICANS PREFER POLITICAL
STABILITY AND WANT TO PREVENT THE ISLAMISTS FROM GETTING
GREATER INFLUENCE MUST AGAIN SUPPORT MUBARAK AND THIS
REGIME.. THE PATH ON WHICH THE ISLAMIC WORLD WILL NOW
EMBARK WILL BE DECISIVE FOR ITS FUTURE."

TIMKEN

ADMIN

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